

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN OCTOBER 1999

U.S. mine production of iron ore in October 1999 was 33% higher than that of the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments decreased by 2% and mine stocks

decreased by about 11% compared with September 1999. Consumption and trade data for October 1999 will be included in a subsequent issue.

TABLE 1
U.S. PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE 1/
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more of manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production		Shipments	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
1998:				
October	5,279	52,208	5,626	49,913
November	5,113	57,321	5,707	55,621
December	5,269	62,591	5,733	61,354
1999:				
January	4,891	4,891	2,181	2,181
February	4,587	9,479	900	3,081
March	5,145	14,624	2,619	5,699
April	4,846	19,470	6,265	11,965
May	5,473	24,943	6,117	18,082
June	5,047	29,990	5,935	24,017
July	5,249	35,239	5,942	29,959
August	3,872	39,111	5,572	35,531
September	3,334	42,445	5,380	40,911
October	3,705	46,150	4,596	45,507

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

TABLE 2
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE IN OCTOBER 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

District	Production		Shipments 2/		Stocks 3/	
	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998
Lake Superior:						
Michigan	548	1,365	1,086	1,282	2,617	3,359
Minnesota	3,157	3,915	3,510	4,343	4,203	3,678
Total	3,705	5,279	4,596	5,626	6,819	7,037

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

2/ Includes rail and vessel.

3/ Includes mines, plants, and loading docks.

TABLE 3
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland	Quebec	Ontario	British Columbia	Total 1/
1998:					
September	1,709	1,187	--	11	2,907
October	1,747	1,379	--	9	3,135
November	1,215	1,418	--	13	2,645
December	1,651	923	--	8	2,583
Year total	21,628	13,232	651	110	35,621
1999:					
January	569	1,674	--	8	2,251
February	459	528	--	6	992
March	455	642	--	5	1,101
April	1,485	1,236	--	7	2,727
May	2,236	1,316	--	10	3,562
June	1,210	1,356	--	7	2,573
July	2,102	1,266	--	6	3,373
August	1,164	1,390	--	6	2,561
September	2,636	1,160	--	8	3,804

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Natural Resources Canada.

TABLE 4
CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE AND
BLAST FURNACE PRODUCTION OF HOT METAL AT U.S. IRON AND STEEL PLANTS 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Consumption by source	Consumption of ores and agglomerates			
	September		January-September	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
United States ores	4,801	4,676	42,291	44,225
Canadian ores	480	530	3,929	5,038
Foreign ores	496	423	3,770	4,444
Total 1/	5,776	5,629	49,991	53,707
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	5,272	5,167	45,787	48,792
Steel furnaces	5	17	38	78
Agglomerating plants 2/	498	444	4,164	4,808
Miscellaneous 3/	--	1	2	29
Total 1/	5,776	5,629	49,991	53,707
Storage point	Stocks of ores and agglomerates			
	September 30			
	1999	1998		
Furnace yards	15,874	19,517		
Receiving/transfer docks	2,922	3,306		
Total consumer	18,796	22,823		
	Blast furnace production of hot metal			
	September		January-September	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	3,780	3,783	33,889	37,190
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	34	39	XX	XX

XX Not applicable.

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

3/ Iron ore and iron ore concentrates consumed in agglomerating plants not located at the mine or plant site.

4/ Sold to nonreporting companies or used for purposes not listed.

Sources: American Iron Ore Association (consumption of iron ore) and American Iron and Steel Institute (production of hot metal and pig iron).

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY
OF DESTINATION AND TYPE 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type	1999				
	1st quarter	2nd quarter	July	August	September
Canada	500	2,271	400	804	603
Mexico	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)
Other	8	6	1	--	1
Total 3/	509	2,277	401	804	603
Pellets	495	2,262	394	803	599
Other	13	14	6	1	5
Total 3/	509	2,277	401	804	603

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

3/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE,
BY COUNTRY AND TYPE 1/
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country of origin and type of product	1999					1998
	September		January-September			January-September
	Thousand metric tons	Value 2/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 2/ (thousand dollars)	Value 2/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Australia	95	881	525	7,144	13.60	488
Brazil	611	16,235	3,686	92,613	25.13	4,701
Canada	826	26,499	4,183	127,863	30.57	6,671
Mexico	1	13	8	143	17.88	8
Peru	(3/)	2	40	591	14.78	126
Sweden	--	--	254	8,065	31.75	375
Venezuela	--	--	262	19,281	73.59	808
Other	19	329	300	8,204	27.34	134
Total 4/	1,552	43,958	9,257	263,876	28.51 5/	13,310
Concentrates	140	2,570	787	13,977	17.76	1001
Coarse ores	--	--	296	9,427	31.85	255
Fine ores	304	5,315	2,534	53,409	21.08	2,420
Pellets	1,080	35,596	4,944	160,185	32.40	8,984
Briquettes	--	--	195	16,929	86.82	128
Other agglomerates	28	461	495	9,570	19.33	514
Roasted pyrites	(3/)	17	7	379	54.14	7
Total 4/	1,552	43,958	9,257	263,876	28.51 5/	13,310

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

4/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

5/ Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE IN SEPTEMBER 1999
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese) 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of origin	Type of product						Total 3/
	Concentrates	Coarse ores	Fine ores	Pellets	Briquettes and other agglomerates	Roasted pyrites	
Brazil	52	--	236	323	--	--	611
Canada	42	--	--	757	27	--	826
Mexico	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
Other	45	--	68	--	--	(2/)	114
Total 3/	140	--	304	1,080	28	(2/)	1,552

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

3/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY COUNTRY

Country of origin	1999					1998
	September		January-September			January-September
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Brazil	323	10,540	1,171	37,247	31.81	2,357
Canada	757	25,056	3,499	113,725	32.50	5,917
Venezuela	--	--	67	2,352	35.10	409
Other	--	--	207	6,861	33.14	301
Total 2/	1,080	35,596	4,944	160,185	32.40 3/	8,984

1/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

3/ Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 9
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE, BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT 1/
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	September	January-September	
	1999	1999	1998
Baltimore, MD (13)	383	2,210	3,276
Buffalo, NY (09)	(2/)	1	22
Charleston, SC (16)	28	308	532
Chicago, IL (39)	262	1,448	1,360
Cleveland, OH (41)	27	387	750
Detroit, MI (38)	184	758	1,513
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	45	124
Laredo, TX (23)	--	16	13
Los Angeles, CA (27)	(2/)	(2/)	16
Miami, FL (52)	--	(2/)	--
Mobile, AL (19)	346	1,494	3,492
New Orleans, LA (20)	306	2,506	2,046
Nogales, AZ (26)	1	9	8
Norfolk, VA (14)	16	16	--
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	--	--	(2/)
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	60	158
Total 3/	1,552	9,257	13,310

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

3/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 10
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	September	January-September	
	1999	1999	1998
Baltimore, MD (13)	234	810	1,303
Charleston, SC (16)	28	203	315
Chicago, IL (39)	148	773	738
Cleveland, OH (41)	--	254	613
Detroit, MI (38)	184	734	1,513
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	45	49
Laredo, TX (23)	--	16	13
Mobile, AL (19)	346	1,487	3,191
New Orleans, LA (20)	141	622	1,156
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	--	94
Total 2/	1,080	4,944	8,984

1/ Less than 1/2 unit.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.